

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-03 ISO-00 USIE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 HEW-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8287

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

JCS

DIA

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

COMUSARSO IMMEDIATE

COMUSAFSO IMMEDIATE

COMUSNAVSO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 4331

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SUBJECT: HURRIICANE FIFI - SITREP 23

REF: SITREP 22 (TEGUCIGALPA 4294)

1. AMBASSADOR SANCHEZ FLEW TO LA MESA AIRPORT OUTSIDE SAN PEDRO SULA EARLY AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 9 TO SUPERVISE ARRIVAL OF FURTHER U.S. RELIEF SUPPLIES. HE PLANS TO RETURN TO TEGUCIGALPA IN LATE AFTERNOON.

2. CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ VISITED THE COMMUNITIES OF LA CEIBA,

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ATLANTIDA, EL PROGRESO AND YORO OCTOBER 8. ACCORDING TO PRESS

LOCAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEES BRIEFED HIM ON RELIEF NEEDS. AT LA CEIBA LT. COLONEL MANUEL SUAREZ INFORMED LOPEZ THAT TOCOJIN COLON, THE BAY ISLANDS, COYOLAS CENTRAL, ISLETAS, SANTA ROSA DE AGUAN AND OTHER SMALL COMMUNITIES ARE BEING SUPPLIED BY TWO U.S. HELICOPTERS. THE RAILROAD OF STANDARD FRUIT COMPANY IS DISTRIBUTING 55,000 LBS. IN 35 COMMUNITIES ON A DAILY BASIS. SUAREZ ADDED THAT THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES OF SUPPLIES.

3. THE LOCAL LA CEIBA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE INFORMED LOPEZ THAT THE MOST URGENT NEEDS ARE FOOD, MEDICINE, WATER AND THE RELOCATION OF 330 FAMILIES. THE COMMITTEE'S TREASURER NOTED THAT THEIR FUNDS WERE EXHAUSTED. AUTHORITIES ESTIMATE THERE ARE 8,000 AFFECTED FAMILIES WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF LA CEIBA.

4. THE MAYOR OF EL PROGRESO IN THE SULA VALLEY ESTIMATED THERE ARE 39,000 AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL JURISDICTION. 30,000 LBS. OF SUPPLIES ARE DISTRIBUTED FROM EL PROGRESO TO COMMUNITIES IN GENERAL AREA ON DAILY BASIS.

5. IN ALL OF HIS MEETINGS, GENERAL LOPEZ, ACCOMPANIED BY THE MINISTERS OF FINANCE, AND COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS, AND THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ECONOMIC PLANNING COUNCIL, PROMISED APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO LOCAL REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE.

6. LA PRENSA OF OCTOBER 9 PUBLISHED AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY COPEN DATED OCTOBER 4 RELATING TO RUMORS OF MISAPPROPRIATION OF RELIEF SUPPLIES AND OTHER INAPPROPRIATE ACTIONS OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THE RELIEF EFFORT. COPEN RECOGNIZED THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH RUMORS AND ASKED ALL CITIZENS TO BRING PROOFS OF SUCH ACTIONS TO COPEN. COPEN HAS THE AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH THOSE GUILTY OF SUCH INFRACTIONS AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT CLEARLY STATED THAT APPROPRIATE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN IN CASES BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION.

7. ACCORDING TO LA PRENSA OF OCTOBER 9, COHEP (HONDURAN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE COUNCIL) HAS REFUSED TO JOIN THE NEW ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (CEYS) (SEE TEGUCIGALPA 4215)
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COHEP COMPLAINS OF LACK OF PRIOR CONSULTATION ON THE FORMATION AND COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL. IN COMBINATION WITH THE TWO QUASI-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, THE NATIONAL AGRARIAN INSTITUTE AND THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, THE GOH HAS AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY AND COULD EASILY OVERRIDE THE INTERESTS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR. POLOFF WAS INFORMED OF DECISION BY LEADING MEMBER OF COHEP ON OCTOBER 7.

8. DURING OCTOBER 8, 146,108 LBS. OF CARGO WERE MOVED BY
HELICOPTERS TO VARIOUS RELIEF SITES WITHIN THE COUNTRY. AS
OF OCTOBER 8, THE TOTAL BROUGHT IN BY NATIONAL GUARD
FLIGHTS TOTALS 401,000 LBS. AND TOTAL CARGO FROM PANAMA TOTALS
409,112 LBS. THE TOTAL CUMULATIVE CARGO THAT HAS BEEN
MOVED WITHIN HONDURAS BY SOUTHCOM AIRCRAFT TOTALS
1,026,664 LBS.
SANCHEZ

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